

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ABF-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 IGA-02
AID-05 EB-08 ACDA-12 PM-05 DODE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07
NSAE-00 SS-15 SP-02 /085 W
-----085638 061547Z /43

R 061345Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY QUITO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6823
INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY LIMA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 0074

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, EC
SUBJECT: USG REACTION TO ECUADOREAN PURCHASE OF MIRAGE
F-1 AIRCRAFT

REF: STATE 001052

1. I DO OBJECT. IF I OR A MEMBER OF MY STAFF WERE TO
MAKE THE DEMARCHE REQUESTED BY REFTTEL, I WOULD EXPECT
OUR INTERLOCUTOR TO MAKE THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

A) IN LIGHT OF THE ACQUISITION BY PERU OF MIRAGES AND
SOVIET SU-22S, ECUADOR MUST HAVE AN AIR DEFENSE
SYSTEM. AN INTERCEPTOR AIRCRAFT IS AN ESSENTIAL
PART OF SUCH A SYSTEM. FOR ECUADOR TO DENY ITSELF
INTERCEPTOR AIRCRAFT, ON THE GROUNDS THAT THEIR
ACQUISITION WOULD INCREASE TENSIONS
OR DIVERT MONEY FROM DEVELOPMENT, WOULD HAVE BEEN
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FOLLY IN A COUNTRY WHICH WAS SUBJECT TO PERUVIAN
"AGGRESSION" AS RECENTLY AS 1941.

B) IN ITS EFFORT TO MINIMIZE THE DIVERSION OF MONEY
FROM ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT, ECUADOR
DECIDED TO BUY THE ISRAELI KFIR AIRCRAFT WHICH WAS
CONSIDERABLY CHEAPER THAN THE ALTERNATIVES. THE

USG PREVENTED THIS PURCHASE, HOWEVER.

C) THE USG FAILED TO OFFER ECUADOR ANY REASONABLE ALTERNATIVE (FOR EXAMPLE F-5S). UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES ECUADOR RELUCTANTLY FOUND ITSELF OBLIGED TO ACQUIRE THE MIRAGE F-1, UNFORTUNATELY A MUCH MORE EXPENSIVE AND SOPHISTICATED AIRCRAFT THAN THE KFIR.

2. IF THE DEPARTMENT HAS SOME IDEAS AS TO HOW WE MIGHT REPLY EFFECTIVELY, AND I EMPHASIZE THE WORD EFFECTIVELY, TO THESE POINTS, PLEASE SHARE THEM WITH ME.

3. ON THE OTHER HAND, IF THE DEPARTMENT WISHES US TO MAKE A DEMARCHE REGARDING THE DECLARATION OF AYACUCHO OR OTHER ARMS-LIMITATION MEASURES, I WOULD BE HAPPY TO DO SO, PROVIDED IT IS IN THE BROADER CONTEXT OF THE BUILDUP OF ARMS IN THE REGION AND PROVIDED THAT A SIMILAR DEMARCHE IS MADE TO THE OTHER CAPITALS INVOLVED. SHOULD SUCH A DEMARCHE BE DEEMED ADVISABLE, I THINK IT ESSENTIAL THAT WE HAVE SOME IDEAS AS TO MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION AND WHAT OUR ROLE MIGHT BE. FOR EXAMPLE, HAVE WE MADE ANY PROGRESS WITH OTHER ARMS SUPPLIERS REGARDING A POLICY OF MUTUAL RESTRAINT IN SALES IN THE REGION? HOW WOULD WE PROPOSE TO SOLVE THE DILEMMA PRESENTED BY AN ARMS FREEZE WHICH LEAVES PERU WITH A DECISIVE ADVANTAGE

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OVER ITS NEIGHBORS? DO WE FORESEE SOME INTERNATIONAL GUARANTEES WHICH WLD OFFSET THE MILITARY DISADVANTAGE TO ECUADOR, BOLIVIA AND CHILE? WHAT CAN BE DONE ABOUT THE UNDERLYING CAUSES OF TENSIONS IN THE REGION, NAMELY THE BOLIVIAN CORRIDOR QUESTION AND ECUADOR'S ASPIRATIONS TO ACCESS TO THE AMAZON? IN SHORT, WHAT DO WE MEAN BY "RESUSCITATING" THE DECLARATION OF AYACUCHO?

BLOOMFIELD

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Message Attributes

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Concepts: AIRCRAFT
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Draft Date: 06 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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ISecure: 1
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